

R u s s i a n R i v e r



C H I N O O K S A L M O N

Onchorhynchus tshawytscha



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Santa Rosa, CA 95406
707 547 1908

www.sonomacountywater.org



**Russian River Chinook Recovery and
Enforcement Program**

A partnership between

**Sonoma County Water Agency and
Sonoma County Sheriff's Department**



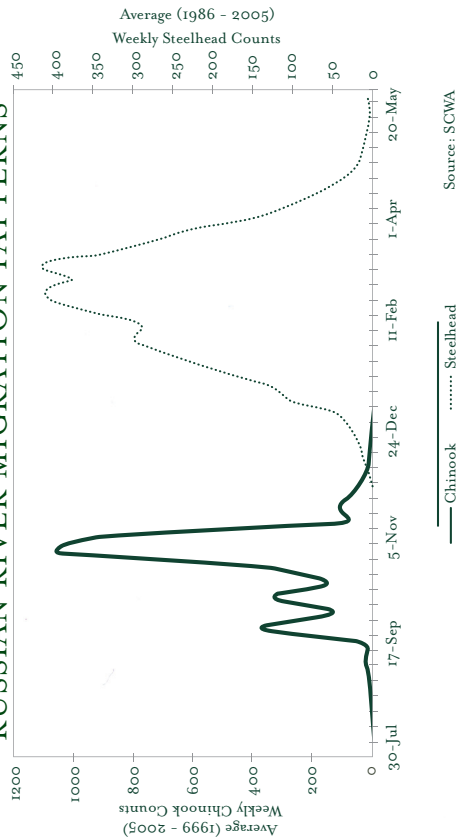
WE NEED YOUR HELP

Recovering Chinook salmon in the Russian River will require the participation of everyone in our community. If you observe any active Chinook poaching or suspicious activity, please notify the Sheriff's Department at **707-565-2121**.

For more information about this program, please visit the Sonoma County Water Agency website at **www.sonomacountywater.org** or call Sean White at **707.547.1908**.



RUSSIAN RIVER MIGRATION PATTERNS



PROTECTING CHINOOK SALMON





The Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department are working together to educate the public about Chinook salmon in the Russian River and to enforce the regulations that protect them.

Protecting Chinook salmon is crucial to the overall health of the Russian River watershed. To help replenish the dwindling salmon populations, the Sonoma County Water Agency has constructed fish ladders, removed dams, restored habitat, and funded recovery programs and studies. These recovery efforts are starting to show signs of success. The Recovery and Enforcement Program is one more step towards providing a safe, environmentally stable habitat for Chinook in the Russian River.



Chinook migrate up the Russian River in the fall months from September through November. While fishing in the Russian River is open for species such as smallmouth bass during the Chinook migration, fishing for Chinook is prohibited. Deputies patrolling the river may ask to see your fishing gear to ensure you are targeting appropriate species.

Targeting steelhead during the Chinook migration period is not recommended. As the graph shows, Chinook and steelhead spawners rarely overlap in the Russian River. Fishing for steelhead during the Chinook migration period offers little chance for successful steelhead angling, and plenty of opportunity to impact Chinook. By the time steelhead begin to show in good numbers (late December), the Chinook run is largely over.

FISHING DURING CHINOOK MIGRATION



REGULATIONS PROTECTING RUSSIAN
RIVER CHINOOK SALMON





There are both State and Federal laws in place to protect Russian River Chinook salmon.

STATE REGULATIONS

Under current California Department of Fish and Game regulations fishing on the Russian River is open year round for most species. Salmon and steelhead seasons however, are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations. In Section 7.00 (a) of Chapter 3 it states that "no trout or salmon may be taken except as provided . . ." This section does not provide for any take of Chinook salmon in the Russian River. Chapter 1 of the Fish and Game Code defines take as to "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" which clearly prohibits any form of Chinook fishing including catch and release angling.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal regulations protecting Chinook salmon in the Russian River are enforced by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Again, Chinook are protected from "take" which is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. Any activity that impairs breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering is considered a "take" under the existing law.



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